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Letter dated 18 October 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Turkey in September 2010 (see annex). The report was prepared under my national responsibility, following consultations with other members of the Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ertuğrul **Apakan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 18 October 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the Presidency of Turkey (September 2010)

Introduction

During the month of September 2010, under the presidency of Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations, the Security Council held eight consultations of the whole and 19 formal meetings, including two private and 17 public meetings.

The public meetings included two held at a high level: on 23 September, the Council convened a summit-level meeting on the theme "Ensuring the Security Council's effective role in maintaining international peace and security", under the presidency of Abdullah Gül, President of Turkey. Then, on 27 September, the Council met under the presidency of Ahmet Davutoğlu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, to discuss counter-terrorism.

In September 2010, the Council adopted five resolutions and three presidential statements and issued four statements to the press.

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 7 September, the Security Council heard briefings from the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Atul Khare, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Margot Wallström, regarding the mass rapes that occurred in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo in late July and August 2010. The Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ambassador Atoki Ileka, also participated in the meeting, where he condemned the rapes, informed the Council of the steps taken by his country's authorities to bring the perpetrators to justice and help the victims and reiterated his Government's call for more international assistance.

In his briefing, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, who had recently visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo to investigate the latest incidents of mass rapes, told Council members that while the primary responsibility for protecting civilians and preventing mass rapes lay with the national authorities, certain failures could also be traced to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). The Assistant Secretary-General outlined several measures to improve the response of MONUSCO, including the installation of high-frequency radio repeaters in areas without mobile phone coverage, and called for rapid punishment of the perpetrators. He also recommended that the Council consider targeted sanctions against the leaders of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), to which responsibility for the mass rapes had been attributed, along with Mai-Mai units.

The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations also called for additional efforts to reintegrate former combatants and stressed the importance of sensitizing both rape victims and their communities about the need to seek treatment and legal recourse. He added that all of those measures had to be complemented by sustained military pressure on illegal armed groups; non-military measures to address the FDLR issue; combating the illegal exploitation of natural resources; establishing effective State authority in conflict-affected areas; and building the country's security and rule of law institutions.

In her briefing, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict welcomed the recommendations made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and pledged to accord priority to the establishment of mechanisms to obtain real-time, actionable information. She indicated that the actual reporting of rape cases should not be viewed as a prerequisite for robust protection responses and that peacekeepers should be attuned to other indicators, including the movements of armed groups and patterns of looting. The Special Representative said that peacekeepers should receive the necessary training to better protect civilians. She added, however, that the spotlight should be on the perpetrators, since focusing too much on the failures of the United Nations could detract some attention from that crucial endeavour.

After the briefings, Council members held consultations of the whole on the issue, where they reiterated their strong condemnation of the tragic events; recalled the firm commitment of the Council to the fight against impunity, in particular for crimes of sexual violence; called upon all parties to immediately cease violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law; urged the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to immediately launch an inquiry and arrest and prosecute the perpetrators of such attacks; and urged the United Nations to take all necessary measures to help prevent and respond to such attacks. At the end of the meeting, the President of the Council made oral remarks to the press along those lines.

Following further consideration of the recommendations provided by the Secretariat, on 17 September 2010, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2010/17) in which it, inter alia, reiterated its strong condemnation of the mass rapes; urged the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to ensure a swift and fair prosecution of the perpetrators and inform the Council on measures undertaken to that end; expressed its readiness to consider all appropriate actions, including targeted measures against the perpetrators; called upon the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to provide effective assistance to the victims of sexual abuse; and expressed its support for a comprehensive approach to the protection of civilians in the region.

Liberia

On 8 September, the Council heard a briefing from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) Ellen Margrethe Løj, in which she said that Liberia had made firm progress since the end of its devastating civil war, but would still require international assistance to sustain its progress. In that regard, she stressed that the political scene was fully seized with preparations for the 2011 presidential and legislative elections, set for November, and that more international assistance was crucial, in particular with respect to resource mobilization and capacity-building.

Following the briefing by the Special Representative, the Permanent Representative of Liberia, Ambassador Marjon Kamara, expressed her appreciation to UNMIL and the international community for its support to Liberia. She affirmed that her Government was making great efforts to rebuild the country and she seconded the appeal of the Special Representative for continued international support and for placing the country on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission.

During the consultations of the whole that followed these briefings, members of the Council expressed their views and concerns on developments in Liberia, the progress already made and the challenges that remained. In this context, Council members focused on a number of main issues, including security sector reform, establishing State authority throughout the country, protection of human rights, preparations for elections in 2011, Liberia's request to be put on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission, and matters pertaining to mission deployment, the future direction of the mission and transition planning. The members of the Council expressed their full support to UNMIL and the Special Representative.

On 15 September, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1938 (2010), which extended the mandate of UNMIL until 15 September 2011.

Sudan

On 15 September, during the consultations of the whole, the Council received a briefing from the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Alain Le Roy on the status of preparations for the Sudan's upcoming referendums. In his briefing, the Under-Secretary-General underscored the need to rapidly address the delays in preparations for the referendums, informed the Council of the major challenges in that regard and explained the ongoing support provided by the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) for the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Following that briefing, members of the Council expressed concern about the delays in the preparations, underlined the need for the referendums to be credible, called for progress also on post-referendum arrangements and emphasized the importance of the panel established by the Secretary-General and the high-level meeting planned for 24 September.

At the end of the meeting, the President of the Council read out a press statement (SC/10031) in which Council members underlined their appreciation for the support that UNMIS was providing to assist the parties, especially noting that fewer than four months remained until the referendums; and called for the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to take urgent action to facilitate peaceful referendums as scheduled that reflected the will of the Sudanese people, to respect the results thereof and to resolve key remaining post-referendum issues.

On 17 September, the Permanent Representative of Austria, Thomas Mayr-Harting, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005), briefed the Council on the Committee's activities. The briefing covered the activities of the Committee from 11 June to 17 September 2010. Members of the Council expressed their concern at the continued violations of sanctions and their support for the work of the Committee and the efforts of its Chairman.

Somalia

On 16 September, the Security Council held a debate to consider the situation in Somalia on the basis of the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/447). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, Augustine Mahiga, in his first appearance before the Council, stressed that the growth of international terrorism, insurgency, piracy and human suffering in Somalia demanded an intensified, focused and coordinated response by the international community. He also called for efforts by the international community to encourage unity within the transitional federal institutions, as well as for the Transitional Federal Government's creation of a road map of achievable objectives and clear timelines to advance the Djibouti peace process by the end of the transitional period next year.

While commending the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and calling for it to be supplied with the necessary equipment, the Special Representative also urged for support of the military capability of the Transitional Federal Government so that it could expand its territorial and political space. He said that the decision by the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to deploy 2,000 additional troops to AMISOM must be implemented expeditiously. He also said that the humanitarian situation remained dire and affirmed that more assistance was needed.

Following the briefing of the Special Representative, the Permanent Representative of Somalia urged the Council to urgently act on the Secretary-General's recommendations and underlined the important role played by AMISOM in preventing Al-Shabaab from taking over the entire country, while the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kenya Moses Wetang'ula, agreed with that assessment and expressed hope that the international community would come together in a more coherent, proactive and sincere manner to help the region and Somalia.

Following those statements, Council members and the other speakers who took the floor supported the assessments of the Secretary-General and his Special Representative, expressing deep concern over the continuing strife in Somalia and affirming the importance of building stability in the country by strengthening the Transitional Federal Government and implementing the Djibouti Agreement. They also condemned recent terrorist attacks and emphasized the need for all parties to respect human rights and humanitarian law and to allow full access of aid to people in need. AMISOM was widely commended, with many speakers concurring with its need for adequate resources. They also underlined that much more needed to be done to address the root causes of piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia by restoring stability and the rule of law inside the country.

Guinea

On 17 September, the Council held consultations of the whole regarding the situation in Guinea following the postponement of the second round of presidential elections in the country. Members of the Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, who provided detailed information on the recent developments that had led to the postponement of the presidential elections, as well as the efforts under way, including by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa, Said Djinnit, to put the electoral process back on track.

Following that briefing, members of the Council exchanged views on the situation and agreed on a statement to the press in which they expressed their deep concern at the clashes that occurred on 11 and 12 September in Guinea, regretted the postponement of the second round of the presidential elections and urged the Independent National Electoral Commission to set a new date for the elections and organize them as soon as possible.

In the statement to the press read out by the President of the Council at the end of the meeting, members also stressed the importance of ensuring a peaceful, free and fair electoral process in Guinea as the only way to re-establish constitutional and democratic order; urged all national stakeholders to uphold the independence of the Independent National Electoral Commission and support its efforts towards the organization of transparent and peaceful elections; called on the Guinean authorities and the candidates in the second round of the presidential election to meet their own commitments and obligations; urged the supporters of the two presidential candidates to refrain from any provocation, incitement to hatred or recourse to violence; and welcomed the declaration by the interim President, General Sekouba Konaté, on the strict neutrality of the army in the electoral process.

Sierra Leone

On 28 September, the Security Council heard a briefing from the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL), Michael von der Schulenburg, on the situation in the country and the activities of UNIPSIL. The Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador John McNee of Canada and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Sierra Leone, Zainab Hawa Bangura, also addressed the Council.

In his briefing, the Executive Representative said that Sierra Leone had made great strides in moving from civil war to stability, but required continued international support in the coming period to maintain stability and economic progress. In particular he mentioned three issues as presenting considerable risks for the country's political, social and economic future, namely the preparations for the 2012 elections, the use of natural resources and developments in neighbouring Guinea. He added that UNIPSIL served as a model for successful United Nations intervention in post-conflict societies, but that the declining financial resources for development could jeopardize the work and credibility of the United Nations and the entire integrated approach to peacebuilding.

Following the briefing by the Executive Representative, Ambassador McNee informed the Council of the activities of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, while Ms. Bangura reaffirmed her Government's commitment to maintain the progress made so far and asked for the continued support of the international community.

After the briefings, members of the Security Council held consultations of the whole on the situation in Sierra Leone. While they expressed concern on the challenges that remained, they agreed that the situation in the country had improved considerably and that the time had come to end the remaining sanctions and dissolve the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone. They also stressed their strong support for the work of UNIPSIL in this critical period leading to the elections in 2012.

On 29 September, the Council unanimously adopted resolutions 1940 (2010) and 1941 (2010), the former lifting the remaining sanctions on Sierra Leone and dissolving the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997), and the latter extending the mandate of UNIPSIL for another year, until 15 September 2011.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 28 September, during the consultations of the whole, the Council received a briefing from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire and Head of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), Choi Young-Jin on the latest developments in Côte d'Ivoire, in particular the preparations for the presidential elections planned for 31 October 2010.

The Special Representative informed the Council that, following the agreement by the Ivorian parties on 6 September and adoption of the presidential decree on 9 September, he had certified the final voters' list on 24 September. Furthermore, he brought to the attention of Council members the possible risks in the run-up to and beyond the elections, and underlined the importance of the deployment of up to 500 additional personnel to UNOCI to contribute to the security arrangements before, during and after the elections.

Following the briefing, members of the Council exchanged views on the issue and agreed on a statement to the press (SC/10043), in which they took note of the certification by the Special Representative of the final voters' list and congratulated the Ivorian stakeholders for that significant progress towards a transparent, fair and peaceful conclusion to the electoral process. In the statement to the press read out by the President of the Council at the end of the meeting, members also urged the Ivorian stakeholders to meet their commitments to organize the first round of the elections on 31 October and stressed the need for the parties to ensure calm prior to, during and after the vote.

On 29 September, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1942 (2010), temporarily increasing UNOCI military and police personnel from 8,650 to 9,150 and authorizing the immediate deployment of those additional capacities for up to six months.

Asia and Latin America

Nepal

On 7 September, the Security Council heard a briefing from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), Karin Landgren, on the situation in the country. The Special Representative stated that although the overall situation remained calm, the dialogue among the parties was deadlocked, thereby preventing the nomination of a new Prime Minister and jeopardizing the peace process in its entirety. She said that advancement of the peace process was in the hands of the Nepalese parties and that it was not right to ascribe the blame for lack of progress to the United Nations, whose role was supportive.

Following the Special Representative's presentation, the Permanent Representative of Nepal, Ambassador Gyan Chandra Acharya, thanked the United Nations for supporting his country's peace process, but said that the latest report of

the Secretary-General could have been more balanced to better reflect the situation on the ground. He also announced that he had just forwarded a request from his Government to extend the mandate of UNMIN with an "appropriate focus", meaning that UNMIN would thereafter only monitor the Maoist combatants.

Following those briefings, members of the Council held consultations of the whole on the situation in Nepal and expressed their concern at the Nepalese parties' failure to move forward with the peace process and at the lack of consensus on major issues, in particular the renewal of the mandate of UNMIN. Members of the Council voiced their strong support for UNMIN, calling on all parties to respect the Mission and refrain from including it in the domestic political debate. Members of the Council also urged parties to resolve their differences peacefully, remain committed to the peace process and rapidly reach an agreement on the future of UNMIN.

After extensive consultations during the days subsequent to the briefings, and following an agreement reached among the parties in Nepal, on 15 September, the Council adopted resolution 1939 (2010), renewing the current mandate of UNMIN for the last time until 15 January 2011, after which date UNMIN would leave Nepal.

Haiti

On 13 September, members of the Council heard a briefing from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Edmond Mulet, who introduced the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/446). He stressed that the overall situation remained stable, but fragile, and that the Government of Haiti was confronted with numerous long- and short-term challenges, including the organization of presidential and legislative elections for 28 November 2010, the maintenance of order in the camps, which were still plagued by sexual violence, the management of debris and the resettlement of some 1.3 million people.

While welcoming the increasing national ownership of the recovery and reconstruction processes and reporting that immediate humanitarian needs had largely been met, the Special Representative stated that the population was now vulnerable owing to the hurricane season and that MINUSTAH was updating its contingency plans accordingly. He called on donors to fulfil their commitments in a timely fashion and concluded that the current strength of MINUSTAH should be maintained at least through the elections and the formation of a new Government.

The Permanent Representative of Haiti, Ambassador Leo Mérorès, thanked the Council for its continued support to his country and assured members that everything possible would be done to organize elections that would be fair and accepted by the population, since it was crucial for the next Government to have the necessary legitimacy to lead the reconstruction process.

Following those statements, Security Council members and other speakers commended MINUSTAH and all those who were assisting the people of Haiti, and the efforts of Haitians under extreme circumstances. They welcomed the maintenance of stability and several other achievements, but recognized the significant challenges that remained, including the situation in the camps and the organization of the upcoming elections. They also supported maintaining the current strength of MIUSTAH until the end of that critical period, as recommended by the Secretary-General in his report.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 17 September, the Special Coordinator of the Secretary-General for the Middle East Peace Process, Robert Serry, briefed the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East.

The Special Coordinator called on the Council and the international community to maintain strong support for the recently revived direct talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, encouraged concrete steps of support from countries in the region, reiterated the Quartet's call for Israel to freeze all settlement activity, including natural growth, in accordance with the road map and reminded Hamas that non-violence, Palestinian unity and acceptance of the basic principles of the peace process was the only route to the attainment of Palestinian aspirations. He reiterated the appreciation of the Secretary-General for the efforts of all facilitators and the Quartet's full support to the talks, including its call for a resolution of all final status issues leading to the end of the occupation that began in 1967, and the emergence of a Palestinian State living side-by-side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours. He also drew the Council's attention to the assessment by the World Bank that if the Palestinian Authority maintained its recent performance in the areas of the economy and institution-building, it would be well-positioned for the establishment of a State at any point in the near future.

On Gaza, the Special Coordinator said that although the number of truckloads of goods entering Gaza was about half the weekly levels before June 2007, the partial easing of the Israeli blockade had helped generate 16 per cent growth in Gaza in the first half of the year. On the Secretary-General's Panel of Inquiry on the flotilla incident that occurred on 31 May 2010, the Special Coordinator explained that the Panel had convened for the second time, received an interim report from Turkey and submitted an initial progress report to the Secretary-General. Turning to the situation in Lebanon, he said that over the past month, there had been increased political tension in the country linked to speculations concerning potential indictments that the Special Tribunal for Lebanon might issue and welcomed amendments to employment legislation, recently adopted by the Lebanese Parliament, to provide Palestinians in Lebanon with greater rights.

In the following consultations of the whole, the majority of Council members expressed support for the resumption of direct negotiations between the parties and called for an extension of the settlement moratorium. Many members called also for the resolution of all final status issues in line with the statements by the Quartet, the lifting of the severe restrictions on access of people and goods into Gaza, and the full implementation of resolution 1860 (2009). Some members also expressed concern about the recent spike in violence and called on all regional and international actors to support the ongoing negotiations. Some members welcomed the submission by Turkey of an interim report to the Panel of Inquiry, as well as the Panel's submission of its initial progress report to the Secretary-General, and also asked that the Council be kept regularly informed of the process.

Afghanistan

On 29 September, the Council held a debate to consider the situation in Afghanistan. A briefing on the situation was presented by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Staffan de Mistura. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, Zalmai Rassoul, also participated in the debate.

In his briefing, the Special Representative said that the Kabul Conference, held on 20 July 2010, had reinforced the Afghan Government's dedication to assuming greater control of its own future, through a series of joint commitments to the Kabul process, including the development of a framework, timelines and benchmarks for national priority programmes, progress towards Afghans taking over the lead on security from international forces, improvements in governance and efforts to tackle corruption. Regarding the elections held on 18 September, he emphasized that in a country still in conflict and facing significant security challenges, the fact that elections had taken place was an achievement in itself. He also underlined that once the election results were announced, all partners would hopefully return their attention to the Kabul process and, in parallel, refocus their efforts on a political solution.

Mr. Rassoul said that the elections represented a major victory for democracy in his country. He pledged that Afghanistan would pursue a comprehensive strategy to implement the outcome of the London and Kabul Conferences, while working towards the gradual assumption of leadership in all affairs of State. He also emphasized that there would be no peace unless military efforts were complemented by a robust and comprehensive outreach initiative, and in that respect, drew the attention of the Council to the recent establishment of the High Peace Council.

Members of the Council and other speakers commended the Kabul Conference as a milestone along Afghanistan's path towards assuming responsibility for its own security and development. Reaffirming their commitment to Afghanistan, Council members stressed the importance of national ownership. They also welcomed the holding of elections despite the deteriorating security situation and voiced their expectation for the relevant Afghan authorities to address any complaints received in a timely and transparent manner. They also emphasized the need for long-term election reform.

Other matters

Maintenance of international peace and security

On 24 September, the Security Council held a summit-level meeting on the theme "Ensuring the Security Council's effective role in maintaining international peace and security". The meeting, chaired by President Abdullah Gül of Turkey, was attended by nine Heads of State and Government and six Ministers for Foreign Affairs. The Secretary-General also participated in the meeting and briefed the Council.

In preparation for the meeting, Turkey circulated a concept paper (S/2010/461) explaining the objectives of the meeting. In the concept paper, it was argued that in the current fluid security environment, the Council needed to constantly review evolving risks and threats and their implications for the Council, and adapt, as appropriate, the means at its disposal to address those challenges. Accordingly, the Council summit was presented as an opportunity for a strategic exchange to evaluate the effectiveness of the Council's core operational tools — preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding — in the face of changing circumstances.

In his introductory remarks, President Gül also underlined the importance of the high-level exchange and expressed his hope for the meeting to articulate a strong vision of collective peace ensuring the Council's effective role in the maintenance of international peace and security. In that regard, he expressed his expectation for

three key messages to emerge from the meeting: the need for a comprehensive approach to peace and security; the need to adapt the Council's responses and actions in light of evolving circumstances; and the need for new and stronger partnerships between the Council and other stakeholders.

In his briefing, the Secretary-General said that, in particular since the end of the Cold War, the United Nations had come a long way in responding to diverse challenges to international peace and security, including by reinvigorating preventive diplomacy, upgrading its mediation capacity, making peacekeeping operations more effective and strengthening peacebuilding. However, in stating that the United Nations must do more, he focused on four critical areas that required further attention: the need to move beyond the idea of a clear-cut sequence of peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding; the need for long-term commitment and sufficient resources in dealing with post-conflict societies; the need to further develop the peacebuilding architecture and to empower the Peacebuilding Commission; and the need to expand work on prevention, in particular the capacity for early warning and response.

Council members reaffirmed their countries' commitment to making the Council's work in maintaining international peace and security more effective and pledged to continue their contributions to United Nations preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping, peacemaking and peacebuilding. The high-level representatives agreed that, despite the reforms of the past few years, much more improvement was still needed, in particular in the areas of conflict prevention, early warning, rapid response, integration of peacebuilding into all phases of the Council's involvement and addressing the root causes of conflict. They also urged better cooperation with regional organizations and greater engagement with countries subject to Council action. Many speakers underlined the importance of providing better and more effective protection to civilians in armed conflict and stressed the continuing need to address the scourge of sexual violence.

At the end of the meeting, a presidential statement was adopted (S/PRST/2010/18) in which the Security Council acknowledged the emergence of evolving threats to international peace and security; stressed that comprehensive and coherent use of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding tools was important in creating the conditions for sustainable peace; reiterated its strong support for the protection of civilians; encouraged and reaffirmed its support for endeavours aimed at enhancing preventive capacities; underscored its commitment to continue to enhance the overall effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping; emphasized that peacebuilding perspectives needed to be considered starting from the first stages of planning and implementation of peacekeeping operations; recognized that a comprehensive and integrated strategy to peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding should involve all relevant actors; reaffirmed the important role of women in all aspects of the prevention and resolution of conflicts; expressed its commitment to continue to fulfil its responsibilities in full cooperation with its partners; and recognized that successful accomplishment of that task required a continuous process of adaptation of its practices in preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

On 27 September, the Security Council held a thematic meeting in connection with its consideration of the item entitled "Threats to international peace and

security caused by terrorist acts". The meeting was chaired by Ahmed Davutoğlu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, and was attended by seven other Foreign Ministers and the Secretary-General.

In preparation for the meeting, Turkey circulated a concept note (S/2010/462), which provided background information about the meeting. In the note, it was stressed that countering terrorism needed to be kept as a priority on the international agenda and that more political attention needed to be given to the fight against that scourge at the level of the Security Council. The note also referred to the informal meeting, held in Ankara on 17 June 2010 with the participation of members of the Security Council, with a view to taking stock of the international community's response to terrorism and discussing the way forward.

In his introductory remarks, Minister Davutoğlu said that the Council must continue to play a leading role in the fight against terrorism and summed up the objectives of the meeting: to conduct an honest review of the effectiveness of the steps taken to date; to candidly assess the current threat posed by terrorism; and to lay out a bold and forward-looking strategy for its future actions.

Following these introductory remarks, the Council was briefed by the Secretary-General, who noted that over the previous five years the United Nations had expanded its counter-terrorism activities, increased inter-agency coordination and enhanced partnerships with a wide range of international and regional organizations. He said that counter-terrorism demanded a broad approach and stressed the determination of the United Nations to rise to this global and cross-border challenge.

The Council members expressed their concern that terrorism continued to pose a serious threat to international peace and security, the enjoyment of human rights and the social and economic development of all Member States. They also touched upon various challenges faced in counter-terrorism, emphasized the central role of the United Nations in global counter-terrorism efforts, and underlined the need for enhanced cooperation among Member States to effectively combat terrorism.

At the end of the meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2010/19) in which it condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; recognized the important accomplishments made in the fight against terrorism; acknowledged that gaps remained in the overall fight against that scourge; urged all Member States and the United Nations system to address those gaps; and highlighted areas of priority in that regard. The Council also reaffirmed that all terrorist acts were criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivations, and that terrorism could not and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or ethnic group. The Council further reaffirmed that effective counter-terrorism measures and respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law were complementary and mutually reinforcing.

Earlier in the month, in a statement to the press issued on 10 September (SC/10025), the Security Council strongly condemned the terrorist attack that occurred in Vladikavkaz, Russian Federation, on 9 September 2010, which had caused numerous deaths and injuries. They expressed their deep sympathy and condolences to the victims of that heinous act of terrorism and to their families, as well as to the people and Government of the Russian Federation.

Non-proliferation/Islamic Republic of Iran

On 15 September, the Permanent Representative of Japan, Tsuneo Nishida, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), briefed the Council on the Committee's activities. The briefing covered the work of the Committee from 29 June to 15 September 2010 and focused on the follow-up work that had been undertaken in response to resolution 1929 (2010), by which the Security Council adopted additional measures relating to the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Following that briefing, members of the Security Council who took the floor expressed concern at the continued non-compliance of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the relevant Security Council resolutions, while underscoring their commitment to a negotiated solution.

Elections to the International Court of Justice

On 9 September, in a vote held simultaneously with the General Assembly, the Security Council elected Joan E. Donoghue of the United States of America, by secret ballot, to the International Court of Justice to fill the remainder of the term left vacant by the resignation of Judge Thomas Buergenthal of the United States. Judge Donoghue will serve until 5 February 2015.